



'Moskovskiy Novosti' Prize-example of Olympic solidarity

The Olympic solidarity message is always a highlight of the "Moskovskiy Novosti" gymnastic competitions, said Yuri TIKOV, President of the International Gymnastic Federation, when together with the USSR women's and men's senior team coaches, Leonid ARKATYEV and Andrei RODIONENKO, he met with journalists from several Moscow newspapers, as well as from TASS and APN at the "Moscow News" editorial office. The point of the meeting was to talk of the forthcoming tournament to be held on March 28-29, to which altogether 41 nations have been invited.

COACHING COURSES

We don't just talk of Olympic ideals, noted TIKOV, we incorporate them in our work. For instance, during the competitions as well as during the Moscow world championship, we hold a seminar for the foreign coaches of visiting teams. The seminar which consists of a display of various novel gymnastic elements and a brief survey of modern gymnastics, is mainly organized by the USSR Gymnastic Federation. We have always looked on the competitions as constituting a major stage in preparing young sportsmen for key contests. This year, TIKOV stressed, we have somewhat expanded the programme. As

usual, on the closing day of the eight top contenders will battle it out in the individual events. But since the overall field will be a large one, TIKOV added, we have decided to let everyone who wants to reach the final enter for an extra tournament at the Izmailovo Physical Training Institute.

LIST OF CANDIDATES WILL SHRINK

As yet the Soviet coaches have only given rough outlines of their ultimate line-ups. Interestingly enough, there will be two women and two men's teams, one of which will compete unofficially. Many of the Soviet gymnastic celebrities are taking it easy this season. Apart from Akopyan, the candidate list omits all those who competed at the world championship last November. The list is as follows: Natalya Yurchenko, Alina Shkova, Tatyana Frolova, Olga Stepanova, Valentina Shkoda, Yelena Brezhneva, Tatyana Kim, Svetlana Muravina, Artur Akopyan, Alexander Tsimlovich, Alexander Pogorelov, Alexander Yavayev, Stepan Markinkov, Sergei Gribkov, Rodinn Gahlov, Eduard Gevorkyan, Vladimir Artyemov, Stanislav Sytnik, and Alexander Alamas. There is still plenty of time for the coaches to make their final choices.



International Skating Union President Olaf Poulsen, of Norway, awarding the cup to Irina Rodnina.

IRINA RODNINA TOPS AGAIN

Three Olympic figure-skating champion and ten-time world award winner Irina Rodnina made the limelight of the opening ceremony of the current figure-skating world championship as she was presented in the Brenth-Hallon palace of sport in Copenhagen with the winners cup handed in by Olaf Poulsen, president of the International Skating Union. She is the first winner of this new prize, donated by the Union to figure skaters and speedskaters who make singular contributions to the advance of their respective sports.

Salina Bosa and Taastio Tirbach of the GDR won the first event of the pairs programme, competing against three Soviet duos, three American pairs, two from Canada, another from the GDR, as well as pairs from the FRG, France and China. Significantly, the GDR has never received a gold pairs award. The 20-year-old college student and 25-year-old radio mechanic from Karl-Marx-Stadt, the GDR figure-skating capital, also won the Europeans a month ago.

Marina Pestova and Stanislav Leonovich of the USSR came second, a repeat of their London success.

Bess and Tirbach deserved their win as they led after the short programme and performed the finest free programme.

The Americans Cathlene and Peter Carreres captured the bronze award. Last year's world and European titlists Irina Vorobova and Igor Llovsky, out of shape due to Vorobova's injury early in the season, came home fifth, and Muscovites Veronika Pershina and Marat Akbarov are in sixth position. Barbara Anderhill and Paul Martini of Canada were placed in between the third and fifth pairs.

Scott Hamilton, of the USA, won the men's individual competition, beating 1982 European titlist Norbert Schramm, of the FRG, and Brian Pockar, from Canada, Igor Bobrin, from Leningrad, was the best of the Soviet entrants cooling seventh.

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING EVENT

The USSR, USA, Canada, France, Belgium, FRG and Cuba will enter the "Soviet Woman" magazine prize synchronized swimming competition of the Olympiyskiy sports complex in Moscow on March 16-17.

The USSR will enter its top competitors, including the all-round national champion Irina Potymkina and winners of many nationwide tournaments Tatyana Khaltar, Yelena Frolova and Yelena Sovatnikova. In the 1981 Soviet debut at the European championship the

Moscow pair of Potymkina and Khaltar came sixth. They will be the first time ever that the Soviet team will meet with last year's world champions and Cup winners Canada and the USA.

The tournament will help participants gear up for the world championship scheduled for August in Ecuador.

The sport's popularity is growing by the day especially since it has recently been introduced to the Olympic agenda.

Alia SUGROBOVA

Records broken daily in tournament

(Continued from page 1)

Precisely each day in the tournament witnesses the breaking of new records, but the largest record goes to the 35,000,000 competitors taking part in the preliminary mass competitions representing 12 Union republics, including Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Armenia and Georgia; three and a half times more than during the first such tournament 20 years ago.

Though the tournament will progress further it is already clearly a monumental success, and has achieved its main goal of promoting physical training and sport in this country and discovering fresh talent.

Recent juniors are setting the pace of the tournament, Yuri Burakov, 22, from Khabarovsk, who gained a gold and a silver from a recent world championship, has won the 30 km cross-country skiing race in a brilliant style. Certainly this is a positive indication that he stands a good chance of becoming the national team leader.

Significantly, he was only the 28th junior home at the previous tournament.

Budding entrants also achieved results in the huge competition, with victories for Muscovites Yelena Peninova,

20, and Sergei Danilin, 21. The latter, already holds a world championship gold and a World Cup silver to his credit.

There is also a whole group of up-and-coming talent in the Alpine skiing competitions, with wins for Leningraders Lyudmila Kodrina-Rena and Mikhail Timofeyev, from Saratov, both 21. Specialists believe Sergei Petuk 14, from the Kamchatka Region, displays much promise.

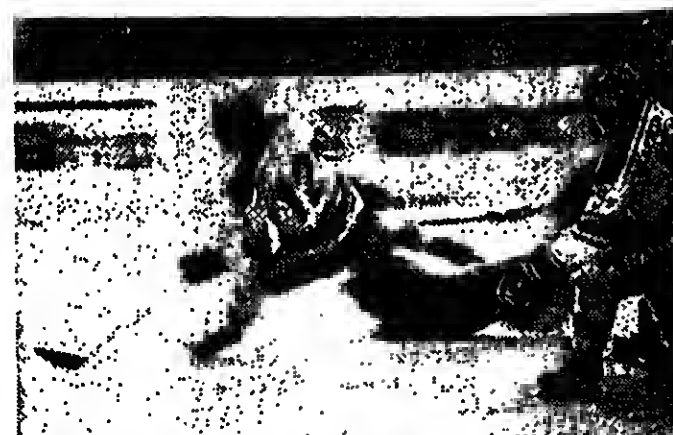
Inevitably there were a few sensations, one of them provided by 27-year-old Pyotr Bryukov, from Kiev, who won the 20 km race, outstripping many top favorites.

The leading speedskating favorites, though, proved their supremacy as Muscovite Natalya Politsuyeva, world sprinting and European champion, captured two gold medals.

World all-rounder and silver medalist Leningrader Dmitry Bochkaryov, 23, made an equal by time skimming in the 5000 m and 10,000 m, clocking 7 min 0.13 and 14:37.92, a new low-level national score.

Olympic champions Galina Kulakova and Zinaida Amosova won the 10 km and 5 km skiing races.

The tournament will conclude on March 17.

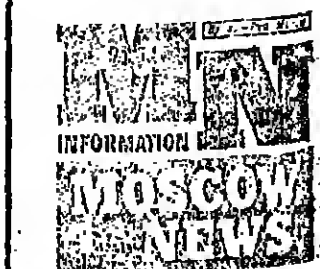


Moscow Spartak athlete Sergei Shapovalov is getting back into shape as he showed in his club's recent, 5-1, win over the Leningrad Army Club. In the photo Shapovalov is seen towards the enemy goal in club of teammate Sergei Kapustin. Spartak over shares the lead with the Central Army Club in the championship standings. Photo by Andrei Golovanov

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Babrak Karmal's appeals to nation for efforts in the name of progress



Kabul. At a national conference of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) at present in progress here, the Party's chair programme of action and the tasks following from strengthening the Party and its links with the people, as well as additions and amendments to the Party's agenda, are being discussed.

Addressing the delegates, Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA spoke as follows:

In adopting our Party's programme of action, we are guided by the simple and clear aim of making our country into a prosperous and happy nation. Such is the basis of the April Revolution and of the entire activity of our Party. The limitation from out-and-out backwardness to progress requires

time and creative and planned efforts by the entire people under the guidance of the political vanguard - the revolutionary Party.

Our Party sets itself the following democratic aims: the elimination of the survivals of feudalism; the restriction of large-scale land ownership; the distribution of land to poor peasants, to farmers with little land and to landless; the improvement in the national economy and in the people's living standards; the development of the culture of the different nationalities and tribes in Afghanistan; and in effect a profound and consistent democratization of the country's social and political life.

(Continued on page 2)

Finland loyal to its chosen course

Helsinki. Today, the majority of Finns support the foreign policy charted for our country by J. Paasikivi and U. Kekkonen. It is stated in a message sent by the Finnish President, M. Koivisto, to the "Finland - USSR" Society in answer to the society's congratulations on his election as President.

By pursuing the Paasikivi-Kekkonen line, the President noted, we continue to guarantee our security and to contribute

to international efforts towards detente, disarmament and lasting peace.

He further pointed out that Finland enjoys a stable international position. Of decisive importance in this respect are the good-neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union which are based on the 1948 Soviet-Finnish Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation and Mutual Assistance and on mutual trust and co-operation beneficial for both sides, Koivisto said.

Party's message to 17th Trade Union Congress

The Party values highly the many-sided and beneficial activities of the trade unions, says a message of greetings from the CPSU Central Committee to the 17th Trade Union Congress which opened in Moscow on March 18. We see the trade unions, the message continues, as an influential force in Soviet society, as forming a reliable Party's base in the masses and as a powerful lever for developing democracy and involving working people in the running of state and public affairs. The Party works consistently to increase the role and significance of trade unions in conditions of developed socialism.

Having admitted a large detachment of collective farmers to their ranks, Soviet trade unions, it is said in the message, unite 130,000,000 working people of all nations and nationalities in our country. It is now a mass organization in the true sense of the word, with its main force being the working class.

The Party has always relied on trade unions in elaborate and implement its economic and social policy and to help in the communist upbringing of working people.



In America, a mass demonstration has been held in protest against the American interference and the military aid given by the United States in the Salvadoran junta and to other reactionary regimes.

Pentagon preparing for 'tactical nuclear confrontation'

Washington. American war strategists have prepared a combat operations plan providing for the use of tactical nuclear weapons. The plan, "Airland Battle 86", which is in complete conformity with President Reagan's views who thinks that "nuclear war is quite admissible", has been published as a non-secret addendum to the US Army Field Service Regulations currently in preparation.

According to Pentagon thinking, nuclear confrontation will first occur in Europe although it is not excluded that this might also happen in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula.

A highly placed US Army officer, who asked not to be named, said that it is clear that this doctrine may mean that the United States will be the first to use nuclear weapons in accordance with tactics which they have never renounced.

At the Leipzig Fair

Leipzig. 9,000 major industrial firms and enterprises from 69 countries are taking part in the international spring fair at Leipzig, held under the traditional motto "For open world trade and technological progress".

The Soviet exhibition which is dedicated to the forthcoming 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR, attracted the close attention of Chairman of the GDR Council of State E. Dieckhoff and of other leaders of the republic.

(Continued on page 3)

DRUZHBA-82 EXERCISES

Warsaw. PAP-TASS. Planned operative and tactical exercises of allied armies, code-named Druzhba-82, are taking place between March 13 and 20 in North-Western Poland.

Taking part in the exercises are military units of the Soviet, GDR and the Polish Armies. The man in charge of the exercises is General of the Army H. Molczyk, Deputy Minister of National Defence of the Polish People's Republic. The joint command is held by the Chief of the Polish Armed Forces, General of the Army J. Gromadzki.

Starts
continue
as tournament
is closing



Valery Savin, winner of the tournament, in the 90-metre ski-jumping contest.

On March 17 the flame of the 5th Winter Tournament of Soviet Nations will be extinguished. For the past two weeks participants have been competing in the finals in the Siberian cities of Krasnoyarsk, Divnogorsk and Norilsk. But the tournament does not end there. It makes history with its records: it has introduced millions of people of all ages to physical training and sport. While around 35,000,000 spectators attended the qualifying mass trials of the 5th Tournament, this figure will surely rise by the time of the next tournament and this is the main goal of this biggest sporting competition for our country.

The tournament also helps discover promising athletes who learn from old hands as well as to draw up the quillies.

(Continued on page 3)

In the national basketball championship the leaders Central Army Club edged Kiev Spartak, 90-88, in a gripping home encounter.

Photo by Sergei Proskov

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DEAR READERS,

"MN Information" comes out on Tuesdays and Saturdays and offers in brief the latest information on events in the USSR and in the world reported by TASS and foreign news agencies. It is a must for all who are interested in the political, economic and cultural life of the USSR and the world.

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UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ENDS ITS GENEVA SESSION

Geneva. Fresh instances of human rights violations and acts of terror perpetrated against the peoples of El Salvador, Chile, the Republic of South Africa and Namibia as well as against the inhabitants of the Arab territories occupied by Israel were discussed at a session of the UN Human Rights Commission held here recently.

The overwhelming majority of the commission members who came from 43 different nations and representative from many international organizations, demanded that an end be put to terror and arbitrary acts in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chile. The speakers emphasized that the USA also bears responsibility

for the crimes committed by these countries, since it provided them with military, economic and other aid.

The commission adopted several important resolutions, including the resolution on scientific and technological progress and human rights, sponsored by the USSR and other socialist and non-aligned countries. In the latter priority was given to the need to deliver all future generations from the threat of war, to maintain peace and security and to curb the arms race. Today there is no more important task than safeguarding the right to live, a basic right which belongs to every human being.

USA-FRANCE:
CONTRADICTIONS REMAIN

Paris. The French President, F. Mitterrand, has recognized that substantial contradictions exist between France and the USA on a number of problems. Talking to journalists following his return from the USA, F. Mitterrand remarked that he is against the American policy of confrontation in Central America. He supported the Mexican plan of solving this region's problem "by way of mutual concessions" between the USA

and other interested parties. F. Mitterrand also admitted the existence of persistent contradictions between France and the USA on a number of problems. Talking to journalists following his return from the USA, F. Mitterrand remarked that he is against the American policy of confrontation in Central America. He supported the Mexican plan of solving this region's problem "by way of mutual concessions" between the USA

OPEN-DOOR POLICY
DEADLOCKED IN EGYPT

Cairo. The open-door policy for the past few years in Egypt has failed to solve the urgent social and political problems facing the country. This is confirmed by the "Al-Silsa" newspaper in a report which it has published on the activities of foreign and Egyptian private capital. Nearly three-quarters of these projects elected since 1974 have yet to go into operation. What is more, 70 per cent

of these projects are in the fields of finance, trade and services, and less than one-third is concerned with the production of commodities. Having received considerable concessions in the past, private businessmen are now refusing to invest in those industries and branches of agriculture really needed by Egypt and will only envisage business deals which ensure them quick returns.

VIEWPOINT

Viktor CHEPRAKOV, Professor

AMERICA'S
OTHER WAR

Why is the USA sucking world hegemony? In fact, hegemony cannot be an isolated aim for it inevitably leads to the enrichment of some at the expense of others. The statement by US Secretary of State A. Haig on Washington's intention of creating an international setup beneficial for American values and ideas leaves one in no doubt about that.

The current actions being taken by the Reagan administration vis-a-vis Western Europe are a stage on the road towards establishing a "new american" of this sort. The efforts to erode West-East cooperation, and to escalate international tension, the plans for stationing new nuclear medium-range weapons in West Europe, and the rise, under American pressure, of the military expenditure of the West European countries are tantamount to West Europe's subjugation to American militarism and to the establishment of US supremacy aimed at undermin-

ing the economic position of its partners-rivals.

The domestic and foreign policy pursued by the White House has aggravated the economic crisis in America brought on by reckless military expansion. This in turn has led to a growing amount of dollars in circulation and, consequently, to rising inflation. In 1981 America saw its price jump by 13 per cent. This is the result of cuts in government socio-economic programmes and of unemployment figures of over 9,500,000.

Washington rejected the prime interest rate as its strategic economic lever, forcing the American banks to an artificially padded interest on credit. At present the rate amounts to 16 per cent in the United States, fluctuating to around ten per cent in West European nations; hence the "flight" of capital from the latter countries to the States. This has prompted the West Eu-



The biggest quality on the market. One calculator enough to seal half of Europe to the great beyond. Of course, it comes cheaper in bulk.

Drawing by Dmitry Vasiliev

Babrak Karmal's appeals to nation
for efforts in the name of progress

(Continued on page 1)

ical life. Our revolution takes into account the national peculiarities of the peoples living in Afghanistan, their profound religious feelings, historical and cultural traditions and spiritual values. We regard these traditions with respect, and we intend to preserve carefully and develop all that is best and progressive of what has

been created by preceding generations.

In view of this, major priority with our Party and the revolutionary power, said B. Karmal, is to achieve final victory over the armed counter-revolution, in order to establish and consolidate on a reliable basis revolutionary power in the provinces and to secure a lasting peace in the country.

amounts to 10,700,000 people, or 9.7 per cent of the entire labour force. On the other hand, prices in these countries rose by an average of 12.8 per cent over the past year. The arms race which the Reagan administration has initiated on Western Europe, the latter squandered \$5,000 million dollars on it last year alone—is weakening Western Europe's position as an economic rival of the United States.

The question is, can Western Europe resist the American onslaught?

Its economic potential matches that of the States. The US share in the industrial output of industrialized capitalist countries in 1981 amounted to 36.1 per cent as against 35.8 per cent for the EEC. There have been long-term trends towards a declining American share in world industrial output. In 1950 this share amounted to 71 per cent but shrank to 64 per cent in 1960 and down to 44 per cent in 1979. The US share in world exports fell from 18 per cent in 1970 to 12 per cent in 1979. Significantly, West Europe boasts higher productivity than its American rival.

West Europe is certainly capable of conducting independent economic and monetary-financial policies of its own instead of buckling down to the American dollar. One indication of this is the growing resistance to American efforts to disrupt the "gas-pipeline" project.

Multinationals stick
to their guns

New York. No results have emerged from the second session of the UN Commission on Transnational Corporations, held at UN Headquarters, to develop a code of conduct for multinational firms.

Gaddafi:
USA responsible for
acts of terrorism

Vienna. The Washington embargo on Libyan oil imports is not bringing the Libyan people to their knees. The tales of Libyan encouragement of terrorism that are being handled about by the Western media have been cooked up by American and Zionist propaganda. It is America which is responsible for acts of terrorism worldwide, said the visiting Libyan leader to a radio interview on Austrian TV.

We do not rule out that Libya might fall victim to American aggression, at Gaddafi's head, and we will defend ourselves and seek assistance from people opposed to aggression. We hope we won't have to solicit their help, but we would have to compensate in doing so if it did be, he emphasized.

FACTS
and EVENTS

Granada's permanent representation at the UN has released a statement in the effect that it will continue to demonstrate its firm solidarity with the just fight of the Salvadoran people.

Islamabad is carrying out a social nuclear programme in order to conduct the early testing of a nuclear device. This is the conclusion reached in a report submitted to the US Congress by a group of experts who visited Pakistan last autumn.

The Pentagon has embarked on the full-scale production of the latest strategic bomber. To this end, it has awarded the Rockwell International Aviation Company a contract worth 2,200 million dollars.

Israeli Prime Minister Begin has approved the setting up of 20 more military settlements on the occupied West Bank of the River Jordan.

At the Leipzig Fair

(Continued from page 1)

This year's fair provides convincing proof of the beneficial development of political and economic relations between the GDR and the USSR. B. Honecker emphasized, and new important incentives in this direction had resulted from his meeting last summer with Leonid Brezhnev.

In the present conditions of aggravated tension to the world arena, which continues to be stirred up by imperialist circles, the development of friendly relations between the GDR and the USSR is of prime importance. The GDR together with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries pursues a consistent policy towards disarmament, the preservation of peace, and the development of international relations.

GDR AND PLO
TO BOLSTER LINKS

Berlin. The peace-loving policy of the socialist countries is a realistic alternative to the adventurist course of confrontation and the arms race conducted by the most aggressive quarters of imperialism, and primarily the USA, says a joint communiqué following recent talks between Erich Honecker, Chairman of the GDR Council of State, and Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yassir Arafat.

Profound concern was expressed in the communiqué over the Middle East situation. It was declared that the Palestinian issue has been and will remain the chief element of a stable and just settlement in the region. The Israeli annexation policy of occupied Arab lands was vigorously rejected and the Soviet proposal for an international conference on the Middle East was welcomed.

In view of the fact that the PLO is the legitimate and genuine representative of the Palestinian people and that the PLO bureau in the GDR enjoys diplomatic status it was agreed that the PLO bureau in the GDR should be raised to the rank of embassy.

FACTS
and EVENTS

Until the year 2000, Hungary will continue building over 100 new tourist zones and complexes with a unified system of hotels, camping and catering centers, cultural and medical establishments.

Legal proceedings against the US administration have been lodged by seven states — New York, California, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio and Oklahoma. Their aim is to stop the White House from making its drastic cuts on public libraries.

The administration at the moment plans to cut library expenditures by 28 per cent.

Powerful cyclones and floods have claimed 67 lives in Madagascar since the beginning of 1982. Quoting this figure, the Madagascar President D. Rakotoarisoane said that there disasters had also destroyed 10,000 houses.

A thermal electric station in Orba, a city of the Uttar Pradesh State in India, has gone into operation. Following the construction of the last, fifth stage of this project, the overall power output of the station has reached more than 1.5 million kilowatts. The station's turbines and generators were supplied by the Soviet Union.

The European Free Trade Association has announced in Geneva that last year there was only a 0.3 per cent growth in production in its member-countries. This compares to a growth of 3.4 per cent for 1980.

PEOPLE

New Jersey Democratic Senator H. Williams has tendered his resignation after being caught out red-handed in the FBI-managed Abscam operation in which FBI agents posed as rich Arab sheiks. It has turned out that several legislators offered to help the "sheiks" in their dirty dealings by making use of their elevated positions in return for cash.

Williams' friends attempted to clear him of the charges and get the Senate to repudiate him instead of kicking him out. But the scandal acquired such proportions that their efforts came to nothing.



As Israel continues intensive military preparations, the Lebanese army has been put on full alert throughout the country. Similar measures have been taken by the united forces of the Lebanese National Patriotic Forces and the Palestinian Liberation Movement. In the photo: A gun crew at the National Patriotic Forces in battle position.

TERRORISM VS UN

New York. A recent meeting of the UN Committee on relations with the host country has again stressed the reluctance or inability of the American authorities to honour their international commitments and to ensure the security of foreign diplomats and their families. The delegates emphasized that despite repeated promises by America to take effective measures against terrorist organizations, committing acts of violence against citizens of a whole series of countries, the situation had not changed. It is the delegates from socialist and other progressive states who are normally the targets of unjustified threats.

Soviet delegate S. Puzhikov said pointed out that the latest session of the UN General Assembly.

Gyros Vance: American policies
increase risk of confrontation

New York. In an interview given to "The Christian Science Monitor", Gyros Vance, former US Secretary of State, castigates American foreign policy. He specifically pinpoints the lack of "positive objectives" in Reagan's approach to the arms limitation problem as leading to an increased risk of conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, Vance notes, however,

that the Soviet Union's serious approach provides optimism that agreement may be reached in the field of both nuclear and conventional weapons. The Soviet Union is also ready to start constructive negotiations on the parity of all forces and weapons deployed in Europe, showing in this way both flexibility and a desire for reasonable compromise.

Science and technology

UNDERWATER GLASS-
FIBRE CABLE FOR
ATLANTIC

The Japanese have carried out tests on an underwater cable, 45-kilometre long and sunk to a depth of 1,000 metres. The cable ensures the simultaneous transmission of almost 6,000 telephone conversations.

In the United States, the American Telephone and Tele-

graph Company intends to lay a 5,000-kilometre glass-fibre cable across the Atlantic by 1988. It is believed that this cable will be able to convey 40,000 telephone conversations at a time.

POWERFUL SHIP-LIFT

An American firm has designed a powerful ship-lift to manoeuvre large ships from the water and to install them onto dry docks for repairs. Its platform to 200 metres long and 23 metres wide. It can lift ships weighing up to 48,000 tonnes at a speed of 23 centimetres a minute and move them to the horizontal plane at 14 metres a minute.

OXYGEN CLEANS
WATER

In Holland, an effective method has been devised to clean up household and industrial sewage and to purify water in swimming pools, lakes and ponds without the use of special chemicals. The installation contains a chamber in which oxygen atoms are ionized. This activated oxygen is then pumped into the impure water in which it oxidizes and the impurities are settled as sediment. This process also kills germs, weeds, mould and viruses.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

POISON FOR EUROPE

The United States assigns to Europe the role of a "gas chamber", writes the weekly NEW TIMES. Ever more obvious become the outlines of the American strategy of a total combined warfare in Europe — with the use of nuclear, missile, neutron and chemical weapons, the weekly stresses. The Pentagon is now drawing up a new "doctrine and tactics of the use of chemical weapons in contemporary combat conditions". Things are not limited to theory. Everything was put on a practical footing. Exercises simulating the use of chemical weapons have been under way both on test ranges in the USA and NATO test ranges in Western Europe for a few years now. The stakes are that chemical weapons, just as neutron weapons, kill people, while leaving material values intact.

The broader and more diversified the toxic arsenal is the more probable is the possibility of all sorts of "leakages" and other unexpected incidents up to sliding to war or a result of an accident, miscalculation or elementary carelessness, the weekly stresses.

WHAT THE USA IS AFTER
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

There is keen rivalry between the United States, the West European countries and Japan over the markets in the Arab countries, Alexei Vasilyev writes in PRAVDA.

As for US relations with the developing countries in that region, Washington banks primarily on economic, military and political blackmail. Washington, the author points out, has begun bluntly preaching the ideas of "strategic encirclement", that is a military and political alliance of the conservative Arab regimes with Israel under US aegis so as to protect them from the "Soviet threat". The United States is dragging the Arab countries into a mad arms race in order to facilitate its influence on the governments of those countries.

This course, however, is leading into conflict with the realities in the Middle East and with the growing anti-imperialist sentiment.

Peace and security, Vasilyev concludes, can only be brought back to the region by the termination of the Middle East conflict and of outside intervention in the affairs of the region.

TIRED TERRORISTS IN AFRICA

In an attempt to destabilize the situation in independent countries, the USA and the South African Republic are setting up terrorist and paramilitary groupings from among disgruntled tribal and tribalists.

Charges of sabotage perpetrated by the latter's agents, SERSKAYA ZHIZN writes that in March 1981 Mozambique's security service uncovered a large American spy ring, including several secretaries of the US Embassy in Maputo, P. Lund and L. Oliver, as well as embassy officials L. Russell and P. Russell. These CIA agents were involved in a plot against the leaders of the republic and in a series of acts of terrorism against the people's power.

The wave of terrorism in Africa is not fortuitous. Saboteurs and traitors are some of the means by which the Reagan administration wants to make the independent African states give up their course for true independence.

CHEAP FARE

The chief motive behind President Reagan's decision to proclaim March 21 as a "day of solidarity" with the "anti-imperialist people of Afghanistan" is the growing dissent among the Afghan counter-revolutionaries entrenched in Pakistan's north-western provinces, where the ringleaders crave for the role of supreme "leader" in order to grab the lion's share of handouts from the USA, China and Britain, writes the SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA newspaper. Trying to save the day, Washington is hurrying to show its solidarity with the bandits.

Another consideration is the severe blows that have recently been suffered by the counter-revolutionary gangs smuggled in from Pakistan. At the hands of the Afghan popular armed forces, the paper holds out, China's Washington is putting on this infamous spectacle in order to bolster the sagging morale of its charges. But no amount of hand-wiggling and money-peddling, the paper concludes, will help America to reestablish the exploiters in Afghanistan or deliver the local people from following their chosen course.

THE RIDDLE OF
THE SPHYNX'S BEARD

The Egyptian Ministry of Culture has been conducting drawn out and, so far, unsuccessful negotiations with the British Museum asking for the return of part of the "beard" of the sphinx, that guards the pyra-

mids near Cairo. A fragment taken from the beard was presented to the British Museum by the captain of a schooner from Geneva early in the 19th century. In order to preserve their ancient heritage, the Egyptians wish to restore the sphinx, but are unable to fully complete this task until the fragment is returned from the British Museum.

OF INTEREST

Bumper collection
of riddles

The museum in the Hungarian city of Pecs has a unique collection of 120 thousand riddles and charades which is regarded to be the largest in the world. The oldest of the riddles dates back to the fourth century A.D. and is in Latin.

Round the Soviet Union

● WORK HAS BEGUN ON A BIG RESORT FOR THE CHILDREN LIVING IN NORILSK, A CITY WHICH LIES BEYOND THE ARCTIC CIRCLE, ON THE PICTURESQUE BANKS OF THE TASEYEV RIVER. Blocks of flats, sports grounds, heated swimming pools and concert halls will be built in the forests. The resort will cater for 10,000 visitors a year. At present most children in Norilsk, where the winter lasts nine months a year, spend their holidays in the country's resorts.

● THE TEACHERS' TRAINING INSTITUTE IN DUSHANBE, CAPITAL OF TAJIKISTAN, THE FIRST INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THIS CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLIC, IS SO. Other republics contributed towards it by providing teachers, teaching aids and books. Over 40,000 specialists have graduated from the institute. At present there are 30 institutes and technical schools in the republic.

● THE MOSCOW SOVIET HAS APPROVED RECONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR THE BIGGEST AND MOST PICTURESQUE PARK IN THE CAPITAL — IZMAROVO. All the gardens laid out way back in the 17th and 18th centuries will get a facelift. Over 40,000 people visit the park at weekends.

● ANDRIAS KRONBERGERS IS A 28-YEAR-OLD ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED A RESIDENTIAL ESTATE FOR 30,000 PEOPLE IN THE LATVIAN CAPITAL, RIGA. The estate harmoniously combines a modern architectural style with the national Latvian traditions. Kronbergers' work has been acclaimed as the top entry in the contest held between young Soviet architects.

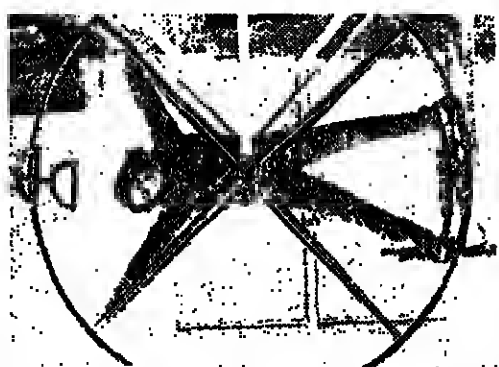
● THE 300,000TH LORRY HAS ROLLED OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE OF THE KAMAZ MOTOR WORKS, which produces large diesel tip-up trucks, prime movers and ordinary lorries.

● AN EXHIBITION OF RARE BOOKS HAS OPENED IN SMOLENSK. Among the exhibits are works dating back to the early 16th century, including the lullies of well-known Venetian and Dutch publishers.

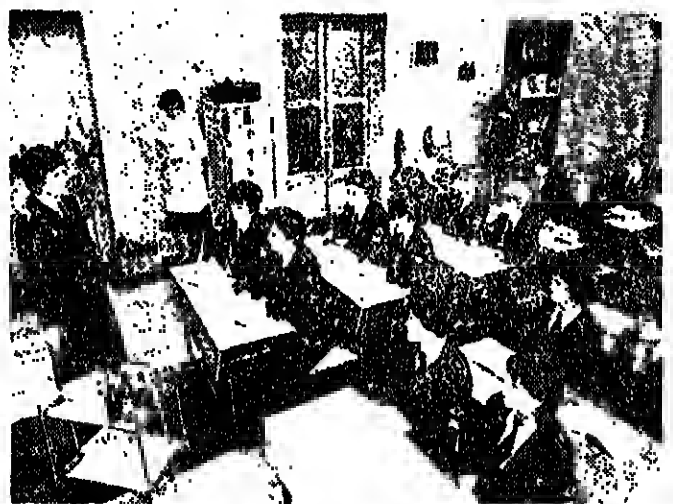
AIR HOSTESSES IN TRAINING

An air hostess has to be pretty and possess professional expertise in addition to knowing the basics of medicine and being conversant with foreign languages. Until recently there was only one school for training air stewardesses and this was in Moscow. But now a second one has opened in Leningrad.

Flying is pleasant for passengers but hard work for both pilots and stewardesses and a lot of exercises designed to help them overcome physical and psychological strain in the air have been worked out. These involve special machines and the trainers used by pilots and rasmonts. Stewardesses are taught how to cope with various contingencies, such as fire, landing on the sea and crash landings, in short, situations which require stamina, quick reactions and high professional standards. Yet it can't be denied that the profession of air hostess is a glamorous one.



First-year student Nelly Leonchenko at a training session.



Would-be stewardesses learning how to serve passengers.

The benefits of Azot

The symbol of the Severodonetsk industrial association Azot is an emblem which depicts a crucible and an ear of corn. This symbolizes the production of mineral fertilizer, the output of ammonium sulphate which last year increased by more than 13 per cent, and the output of liquid anhydrous ammonium which climbed by 50 per cent. The annual output of mineral fertilizer has reached 2.6 million tonnes per year.

The Severodonetsk chemical industries have introduced the production of such fertilizers as anhydrous liquid ammonium and concentrated carbamides. They also produce bicarbonate of ammonium which is employed as a fertilizer and forms a valuable addition to cattle fodder.

New ferry for Sakhalin

The 'Sakhalin-7' is a new ferry which has made its first run between Vostochny and Kholmsk on a route linking the mainland with the island of Sakhalin. It delivered a freight train to the island.

This ferry route is being expanded. A second line is under way, and the construction is now in progress of railway tracks and auxiliary services.

The 'Kolkhida' (Colchis), constructed at the Pail Shipyards in Georgia, is a new passenger hydrofoil ship which defies changeable weather conditions. It will replace its predecessor, the 'Kometa', which the shipyards have continued building for over 20 years and it was this design that first drew the interest of many foreign ship-owners.

The 'Kolkhida' is more manoeuvrable than the 'Kometa' and reaches a speed of 40 knots. The engines and the automatic control are located in the stern. This has improved the navigation properties of the ship, and has reduced rolling, vibration and noise.

'KOLKHIDA' TO REPLACE 'KOMETA'

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Multilayer pipes save money

The manufacture of large-diameter multilayer pipes from cheap low-alloy steel has commenced at the Soviet metallurgical works.

Such pipes have no analogues to be found anywhere in the world. For the first time these pipes will not be rolled, but joined together out of separate drums woven out of five layers of low-alloy steel. They are constructed from cheap metal, and can withstand great loads. Gas can be transported through such pipes under a pressure of up to 120 atmospheres. The efficiency of energy arteries will thus be doubled.

Soviet specialists have refused to follow the method of many Western firms, who are trying to increase pipe strength by including in the steel molybdenum, molybdenum, nickel and other elements in short supply. Soviet engineers have set themselves the task of creating new multilayer pipes from ordinary steel, which was previously processed under a special technology. This problem has been successfully solved.

Ships in the Karakum Desert

The first consignment of materials and equipment were transported via the Karakum sea-lane destined for the construction of Turkmenia's largest reservoir.

The Zeld pier at which the ships docked is the ninth along the 1,100 km canal. This marks the largest man-made waterway in navigation for 500 kilometres, from the Golevaya settlement all the way to the town of Mary. The rapidly growing Karakum Irrigation has elevated the pressure previously felt by the rail system and has significantly speeded up deliveries of raw materials, machines, equipment, building materials, consumer goods and food in the most out-of-the-way places in the Karakum Desert.

Over 150,000 tonnes of cargo was shipped in 1981 via the canal which is ice-free all year round.

OCEAN'S MINERAL DEPOSITS

There is a lot of mineral wealth under the ocean bed, argues I. Khramov in the DZUZHBA NARODOV magazine. The important thing is how to extract it. Over a hundred nations are now prospecting for oil and gas within the shelf area and over 25 states have already begun to extract these organic fuels. Modern technology makes it possible to drill at great depths and in the future it is likely that the most intensive extraction will be concentrated precisely in such areas. Over the years there have been varying estimates of the resources to be found on the seabed. In the 40s and 50s the oil and gas deposits were estimated at roughly 55,000 million tonnes (in terms of oil), the 1966 figure was 207,000 million, the figure for 1971—300,000 million, while that for 1975 was 400,000 million tonnes. The present estimate is over 500,000 million tonnes.

The production of deep-sea oil and gas is a relatively young industry. In 1954, 800,000 tonnes of oil and gas or 0.12 per cent of the annual global production was extracted from the seabed. In 1969 this rose to 9.35 million tonnes (0.9 per cent) and in 1977 to 350.7 million tonnes (23.4 per cent). It is quite possible that growth in this production might help alleviate the current raw materials deficit. The same goes for the extraction of solid minerals from the seabed.

We have in mind here, in particular the iron-manganese concretions that discovered over a hundred years ago. These are composed of some 30 elements, among them nickel, cobalt, manganese and copper and, what is more, in quantities suitable for commercial production. They cover an area of roughly 35,000 sq kilometres. There are also other minerals to be found here. In the next 15 to 20 years the potential should have been built up, the article contends, to start on the commercial exploitation of deep-sea mineral resources.

Places to visit



St Basils

St Basil's Cathedral, an outstanding piece of Russian architecture, was built in Red Square in 1555 to commemorate Russia's victory over the Kazan and Astrakhan Tatars.

It was originally called the Cathedral at the Intersection of the Virgin, but was renamed in the late 18th century after a well-known Moscow holy man who is buried on the site. In the Cathedral, now a branch of the History Museum, one can learn about the building's history. In one of the halls there is an excellent display which tells of the 1552 offensive against Kazan. Sidelights and frescoes of the period are also on view and the 17th-century frescoes in the gallery have recently been restored.

The imposing structure of nine stately onion-shaped domes guided by an elegant gallery provides magical touch to Red Square.

TV tower for Tashkent

A 375-metre TV tower, which can be seen from over a hundred kilometres away, has been erected in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent. When it becomes fully operational television programmes put out by Tashkent studios will be received in ten towns around the Uzbek capital and in hundreds of villages at the foot of the Tien Shan Mountains, in the Hungry Steppe and in the Syrdarya Valley.

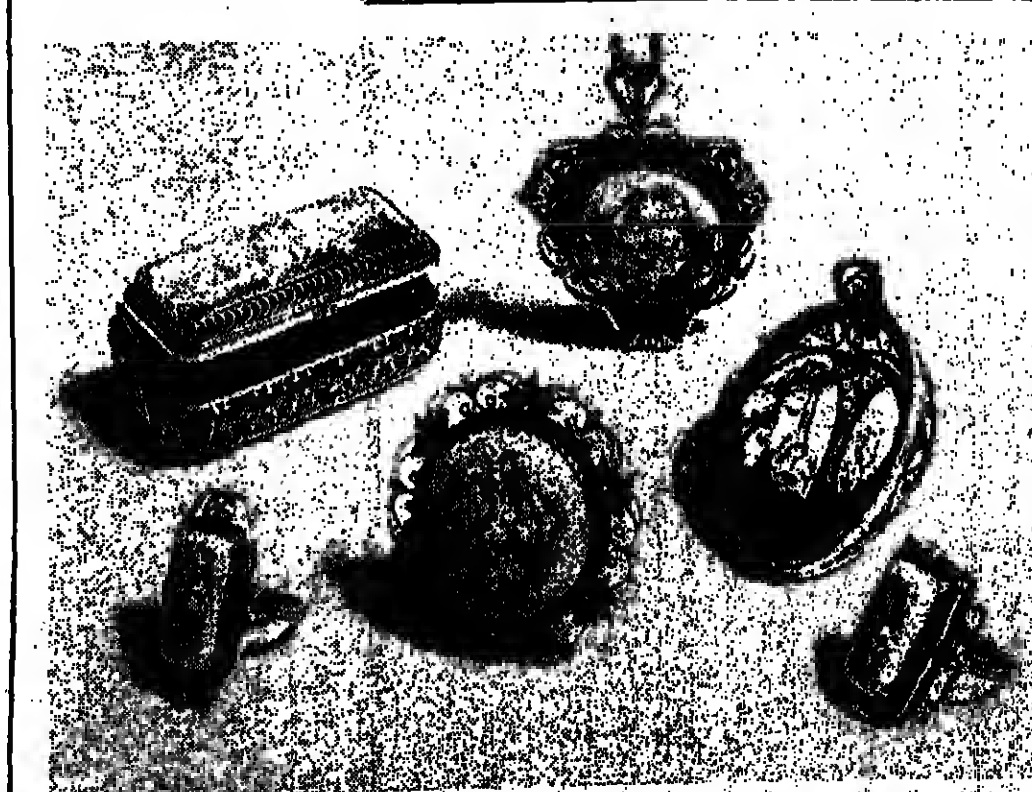
The foundations of the steel structure which itself weighs nearly six thousand tonnes cover an area of half a hectare. As this is a highly seismic region the tower receives additional support from strong pylons.

OF INTEREST

Ballroom dancer at 92

This year the 'Crystal Pair' dancing competition, which took place recently in the blue drawing-room of the Lenin Palace of Culture and Technology in Tashkent, was confined to members of 'The Over 50s' studio for ballroom dancing. Taking part was D. Atamanov, a 92-year-old retired maths teacher.

URAL ENAMELS



The Perm jewellery-lapidary works is famous for its ornaments made out of metal, for its enamel paintings on stone, and carved objects remarkable for their fine allegorical work and precise designs. Making full use of the particular qualities of northern Perm enamel, the local craftsmen have become very skilled at reproducing old fairy tales and legends. Jewellery from the Perm works has been displayed at various shows in this country and abroad.

Science and technology

UNIQUE ATLAS OF VEGETATION

An atlas of plants, whose pollen causes allergy, has been compiled by scientists in Soviet Turkmenia (Central Asia). It includes 700 plants from all continents of the world, which had been studied at one time or another previously been unknown.

The atlas is a result of over ten-year study conducted by medical scientists, Sergei Kuznetsov and Ilya Galaktionov. Staff members at the Ashkhabad Epidemiology and Hygiene Institute summed up the vast theoretical material, carried out observations on hundreds of patients and listed many examples in the Karakum Desert.

Earlier they had listed a 'Reference Book on Allergy-Causing Plants and Pollen' published in Russian, Latin, English, German and French. It aroused great interest in the Soviet Union and abroad.

MAN-MADE REEFS FOR THE BALTIC

Nature was mean when supplying the Baltic Sea with reefs, a miscalculation which had to be remedied by civil engineering.

According to specialists, man-made underwater ridges will enhance the self-cleaning capacity of this vast virtually closed water basin. Experimental testing grounds have been set up two kilometres off-shore in order

A JOURNEY TO ANCIENT CHERSONESE

It is now possible to walk the medieval streets of the historical archaeological museum-preserve in Chersonese. Undertaking a restoration programme that has lasted for many years the scientists and restorers recreated an authentic image of the ancient city on the Black Sea that was previously irrevocably destroyed by Hittite nomads in the 15th century.

The area of the display marking the final period in the history of Tauric Chersonese has doubled in size following the opening of the museum. The exhibits now consist of some 2,000 rare archaeological finds. They include tools, household articles, ornaments, weapons and coins from different countries. Fragments of restored houses are of special value. In particular, the mosaics, decorating the walls, have been restored in minutest detail.

VIEWPOINT

DUAL TASK OF SOVIET TRADE UNIONS

Andrei RYBAKOV, Chairman of the Central Committee of the machine-building and instrument-making workers trade union, member of the Presidium of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU)

The series of meetings at which reports were read and new officials elected in the run-up to the 17th Congress bear witness to the success of trade union meetings and conferences were held in trade union groups, in shops and local organizations in factories and offices, educational establishments and on farms. All in all 20,000,000 reports were read for every sixth trade union member, were read in preparation for the 17th Congress.

The Soviet trade unions have the dual task of promoting the national economy as well as of securing the interests and rights and improving the labour and everyday conditions of the working people. The very nature of the socialist system which is characterized by public ownership of the means of production and is free of crises, inflation and unemployment is conducive to a vigorous effort on the part of the workers to raise production and increase labour productivity and efficiency.

There has been no unemployment in the USSR ever since 1930. Generation after generation of Soviet people have become increasingly aware that the results of their labour go to benefit the whole population and that their living standards have been steadily improving. Hence the grass-roots creative upsurge, initiative and enthusiasm for their work shown by millions upon millions of people. One striking example of this is the massive drive to meet ambitious production targets, a campaign led by the trade unions which has been going on for over 60 years. Chersonese, therefore, there are no losers in this campaign for those in the front always help those falling behind in various ways.

In the new Soviet Constitution, which was adopted in 1977, trade union rights were significantly expanded and their status upgraded. Soviet trade unions make sure that labour safety regulations are complied with and thus labour legislation is adhered to; they watch over social security and free voluntary sports and travel societies.

Protection of the labour and health of the working people is a major feature of the ongoing social programme.

A total of 20,000,000 people have benefited from improved labour conditions among them 7,000,000 working women. The trade unions also run the state social security budget, which grows with each year. In 1982, for instance, it will be increased to 30,400 million rubles (a 67 per cent rise over the previous year). The money will go to provide treatment for factory and office workers and their children; in sanatoriums and resorts and towards the other social needs of working people.

The local trade union committees watch very closely over the interests of the working people. Having worked for 30 years as laborer at the Krasny Proletary machine-tool building plant in Moscow, I know from my own experience that this is true.

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

NUCLEAR PLANTS COMING INTO THEIR OWN

The first 1,000,000 kW unit of the Rostov nuclear plant, due to go up on the left bank of the non-mode Tsimlyanskaya Sea in the southern Russian Federation, will be commissioned in 1985, writes the SOVSIALISTI-CHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA newspaper.

The plant will markedly improve the power supply of the entire Northern Caucasus and consequently boost the economic advance of the region. Unlike its customized predecessors the Rostov plant is one in a family of standard plants, thus launching the stage of standard nuclear stations.

In addition to its attractive cost and performance characteristics, the station will do absolutely no harm to the environment, as is the case with all such plants, the paper concludes.

LAND IMPROVEMENT

The USSR is channeling vast financial and material resources into land improvement in order to enhance yields, writes the PRAVDA newspaper. A lot of work has been done recently to make the fields more fertile, to speed up and to ensure the efficiency of land-improvement schemes. Last year vast irrigated areas were put under the plough in the Stavropol Territory, in the Volga Region, Uzbekistan and other areas. At the present time farmers are busy laying fertilizers on the fields and adjusting the irrigation network, with the hope that this will result in bumper crops in the second year of the 1981-83 plan period. Wide use is made of scientific and technological

PROFILES



Pavel LEBESHEV

When the film "No Stranger Among Aliens, Alien Among One's People" was first shown on the screen it aroused heated debate and was the cause of the most diverse judgments. But one thing was definite. This film marked the debut of two talented professionals into the world of the cinema: director Nikita Mikhalkov and cameraman Pavel Lebeshev. It was Mikhalkov's first experience of directing a movie, while for Lebeshev it was a long-awaited discovery of his artistic potential. It had taken Lebeshev some time to find his own individual style. Having graduated from the All-Union Institute for Cinematography in Moscow, he cooperated with his father, cameraman Timofey Lebeshev, on the shooting of "The Shield and the Sword". He went on to make a number of films on his own which, although they were nothing spectacular, helped him master his profession. Then came his meeting with director Nikita Mikhalkov which set the beginning for many years of friendship and successful cooperation.

The sharp and dynamic turn of events in "No Stranger..." the intense inner struggle formulating the characters and the unexpected dramatic situation in many ways determined the visual structure of the film. It is a film about the violent events of the twenties and it was made at a very timely moment. The film was a success not only because Lebeshev used up-to-date techniques but also and, perhaps, to a greater extent, because he used these techniques with precision and skill. This is what made the film so striking—visually it was polished and had moving and kept the audience in a constant state of suspense.

Once Lebeshev gave an interview in which he outlined what was most important for him when working on a film. "I like to find a combination of all techniques to get the required result." He has come up with such correct and accurate combinations in every film he has made: in "The Slave of Love", in "A Quiet Place for the Player Piano" and in "Several Days in the Life of I. I. Oblomov".

After a short break, Lebeshev again met Mikhalkov and they began to work on a screen version of Alexander Volodarsky's play "Five Weeks" in this film the camera takes us into a communal flat in Moscow, a typical place of residence of the office and introduces us to two lonely elderly people. This story about "retro" style of the love, hope and happiness found by these two people, was made by the cameraman who worked on every detail of the furniture and interior, and kept a close watch over his characters, registering the minutest changes in their feelings. Via recreating the atmosphere of a human drama of loneliness and love this period sprang to life before our eyes.

In the past few years Pavel Lebeshev has made three more films: "Kinsfolk" directed by Mikhalkov and "Life Guard" and "The Heirless In Direct Line" directed by Solov'yev. Lebeshev has an extraordinary capacity for work and it is rare that he rests between films. He has experience, professionalism, and the ability to discover the most unexpected and expressive aspect of any material. It is the combination of such talents that makes Lebeshev into one of the most interesting of Soviet cameramen.

Yelena LVAROVA

FACTS and EVENTS

Circus. Soviet Circus performers have successfully completed their season in Cuba. During these months they gave 103 performances, which were attended by nearly half a million people.

Books. The Agila publishers in Argentina have issued a Spanish translation of Mikhail

Sholokhov's "And Quiet Flows the Don". The "Nacion" paper commented that the author's profound characterization of the Russian people evoked much interest on the part of Argentine literary public.

Theatre. A televised version of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment" was greatly enjoyed by Algerian TV-viewers. The screening was performed by the well-known producer and actor Ahmed Agoumi.

SUCCESS FOR BOLSHOI SOLOISTS

A series of concerts by a Bolshoi Theatre Company have got off to a flying start at Leningrad. Over 1,300 spectators crammed the local auditorium for the opening concert. During March other Soviet visitors will visit

SHOSTAKOVICH'S MUSIC IN LENINGRAD

A Concertino for two pianos by Dmitry Shostakovich was recently played at the Leningrad Concert Hall as a Concertino for the piano and orchestra arranged by Moscow's Conservatoire Professor Yevgeny Raisor, and performed by a graduate of the Leningrad Conservatoire, Dmitry

Raisor, and the Chamber Orchestra of Ancient and Modern Music conducted by Eduard Sarov. The new arrangement is a very vivid and expressive piece, says Eduard Sarov. I am pleased that the orchestra had the honour of being the first to perform this new version.

SIMONOV'S REQUEST

At a solemn ceremony which took place recently in Moscow at the Georgian Consulate a Minister Representative Office attached to the USSR Consulate in Tbilisi, two paintings by the Georgian artist, which belong to the late poet and author, Simion Simonov, were passed to the Georgian republic. My father decided that his paintings should belong to the right to his native land, said Simonov's daughter at the ceremony. The paintings are a portrait of her father and a landscape of Georgia.

The two paintings "The Drinking-bird" and "Bog of Friends" ("A Family Ring" now lying in Georgia's Art Museum).

and artists despite the fact we are living in an age of technological advances, space flight and super-smart robots.

Our work is not an exact parallel, but rather it represents our firm conviction that it will sooner or later return to roots and the source of the artists. People sometimes look about the earth and about in time, and as we all know, time doesn't tolerate being looked at.

Svetlana DROZDOVA

HOMELAND

This is the title of an exhibition now on view at the Artists Club (11 Kuznetsky Most St) featuring works by 10 Moscow artists.

Their canvases depict Central Russia with its endless fields, wind bent blades of grass, forests standing still in the dusk, birches weeping from loneliness—all this reminds us of our deep

roots and of our rapport with nature. This is the second joint exhibition by this group of landscape artists. Love of Nature has always been inherent in a Russian soul—one only has to think of Pushkin, Tyutchev, Yezhov, Tolstoy, Blok, Bunin, Leskov, or Prishvin. Mother Nature continues to be a favourite theme with many contemporary poets



A. Zhabitsky. Still life with the branch of an apple tree. ● A. Solov'yov. Birch trees in spring.

SOVIET FILMS FESTIVAL IN CANADA

Large audiences were recently crowded to view the Soviet Film Week held at the Cinema Urmoot, one of Montreal's largest movie-houses. This was the fourth screening in the past few years. The local media commented that the Canadian audiences had an opportunity to a wide range of Soviet films, including "The Triplicity", "You Never Ever Dreamed of It", "Five Brethren", "King Siegfried", "Wild Horses" and "The Ideal Husband".

PERM OPERA STAGES PROKOFIEV'S 'WAR AND PEACE'

The Tchaikovsky Opera and Ballet Company in Perm has fulfilled Sergei Prokofiev's original intent to stage "War and Peace" in two performances over a period of two successive days, stated Perm's Opera director I. Burdin.

This idea is particularly convenient for smaller companies, as the production requires the participation of 70 singers and actors. Now with the performance covering two days, the cast can play several roles. So far the opera company has produced the best designs and has assigned parts to its members.

WHAT'S ON?

March 16-19

THEATRES

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq., 16) — Verdi, "Un ballo in maschera" (opera), 17 — Tchaikovsky, "The Sleeping Beauty" (ballet), 18 — Glinka, "Ivan Susanin" (opera), 19 — Shchedrin, "The Sea Gull" (ballet).

Sienkiewicz and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St., 16) — Concert by opera singer Leonid Boldin, 17 — Tchaikovsky, "The Snow Maiden" (ballet), 18 — Prokofiev, "Betrothal in the Monastery" (opera), 19 — Balasanyan, "Shakuntala" (ballet).

Opera Theatre (8 Pushkinskaya St., 18) — Lehar, "The Merry Widow", 17 — Suppé, "Donizetti's Daughter" (ballet), 18 — Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre performance, 18 — Strauss, "Die Fledermaus", 19 — Feltsman, "An Old Comedy".

FILMS

Real Train No. 34 (Mosfilm Studios, USSR). When a long distance

train catches fire the passengers prove their heroism.

Cinema: "Coriolanus" (Komsomolsky Prospekt, Moscow). My Barmal Love played in the USSR.

The action takes place in a collective farm in Russia.

Cinema: "Zaryadye" (Kvartalskaya Embankment, Moscow). Ploshchad Nigina.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition Hall, Moscow. Braoch Artists Union (19-20 Goryev St., Landscapes and portraits by Moscow artists. Daily, except Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Metro: Arbatskaya.

BUSINESS

ELECTRICITY FROM THE USSR TO FINLAND

The high voltage power transmission line which links the power grids of the USSR and Finland has attained its rated capacity. The line will transmit up to 4,000 million kilowatt hours of electric power a year from the Soviet Union to its neighbouring country.

The contract concluded between the V/O Energomoshexport and the joint-stock company Luovan-Volma envisages a subsequent expansion in the supply of electric power. Soviet specialists have begun supplying the line with additional equipment, which is designed for a multiple increase in the amount of transmitted power.

The two countries' business-like partnership in the field of the power industry is not only limited to the supply of electricity. A gas pipeline to Finland has also been laid. A series of thermal power stations and the first atomic power plant Lovisa have been constructed in Finland with the Soviet Union's technical assistance.

Contacts and contracts

Over 1,300 organizations from 114 countries have taken part in the recent travel fair in West Berlin. The joint display of Soviet industrial and Aeroflot was a success.

Czechoslovak Skoda will supply the USSR, via V/O Aviaexport, with 200 tractors by the end of the year.

COOPERATION IN ENGINEERING EXPANDS

During its regular meeting in the town of Heviz, Hungary, the Permanent CMEA Commission of Cooperation in Engineering has outlined measures to further increase the efficiency in international specialization and cooperation. This is in regard to the technological level of specialized production, the development and strengthening of direct contacts on the basis of agreements between organizations taking part in the cooperation, and other measures. Steps have been taken for the joint designing and production of the coming five years of highly efficient precision metalworking and casting equipment and other goods.

WEST GERMANY FAVOURS 'EASTERN TRADE'

About six thousand West German firms are directly involved in "eastern trade" and one-third of them regard commercial and economic ties with CMEA countries as vital. The continuing economic recession in Western industrialized countries makes West German cooperation with socialist states still more important. Harald Detze, a prominent economist and editor-in-chief of the West German journal "Ost-West-Kommunikation", writes in his journal.

It is understandable therefore why business circles in the FRG feel anxiety over the massive and constant attempts of the Reagan administration to interfere in the foreign trade of our mid other West European countries. So-called "trilateralism" by the USA is directed primarily

Another bank comes to Moscow

Belgium's major bank, Société Générale de Banque, has opened an office at the Masrow Center for International Trade to promote the interests of Belgian businessmen in the Soviet Union and help firms in establishing trade contacts with Soviet foreign trade organizations. The two countries have diversified commercial links, and the USSR is among Belgium's top ten partners with its exports of steel, timber, oil, and imports of consumer goods and equipment.

Intourist news

MOSCOW GUESTS

Every day many visitors from foreign countries arrive in Moscow. Recently we talked with one such tourist, Kaye Schumacher, employed at the Carl Zeiss Jena combine, GDR, who travelled to Moscow about a friendship visit.

... Is this your first trip to Moscow?

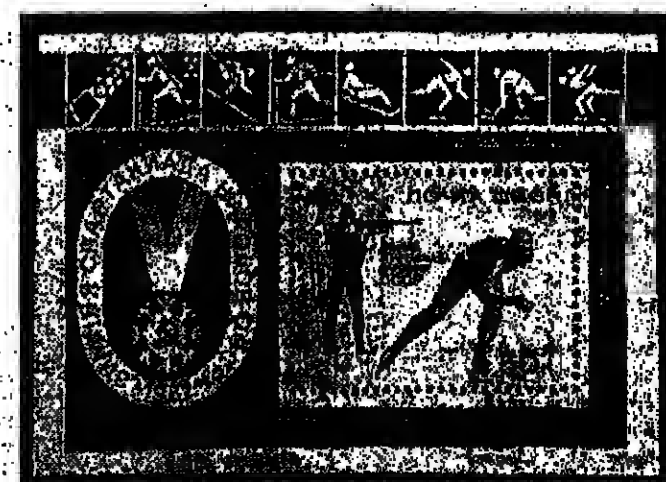
— Yes, but it seems to me I've long known the Soviet capital—from books, films, and newspapers. Incidentally, our combine shares long-standing links with Moscow and I believe that Moscow's research institutes and laboratories use equipment made in Jena.

Our cameras are in heavy demand here, and I saw people in the street wearing glasses made by my colleagues, who also took a hand in lifting out the "grand Zeiss phonograph" now located at the Moscow phonoclub.

Chel Kaye Kristova visited Moscow with a delegation of Bulgarian cookery experts.

— We travelled here on the invitation of our colleagues at Moscow's Sofia restaurant, for we have long been friends, exchanging expertise. Many people will know that the Sofia restaurant in Mayakovskiy Square offers a range of Bulgarian dishes. Incidentally, she continued, several of our specialists will come to Moscow this summer to help decorate the Sofia's interior.

Philately



The USSR Ministry for Communications has issued a 50-kopek souvenir sheet celebrating the 5th Winter Tournament of Soviet Nations. It depicts a biathlete and a speedskater, and along the margins are printed the emblem of the event and pictograms of eight winter sports—biathlon, bobsleigh, skiing, luge, ice hockey and figure skating.

The Ministry also issued a series of stamped envelopes commemorating the Tournament and also a special postmark stamp in Krasnoyarsk (Eastern Siberia), the capital of the Tournament.

Grand sporting event marked by stamps

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